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Transmitted via Email

November 23, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-13

SUBJECT: LTP – UPDATED 2005 EQIP INFORMATION

Purpose. To provide information about EQIP developments.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

FY-2005 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) development has been proceeding and the attached documents will help local field offices finalize their program. These include:

1. Revised 2005 EQIP Timeline;
2. Final draft of the 2005 Minnesota EQIP Conservation Practice Payment Docket;
3. Final Draft of the 2005 Minnesota EQIP Application Scoring Worksheet;
4. Final Draft of the 2005 Program and Policies for Minnesota; and,
5. Net Meeting information, December 9 and 10, 2004.

The Minnesota EQIP 2005 Timeline moves the beginning of the first signup to December 13. This will allow field offices an additional week to complete the 2005 Local Work Group (LWG) process.

The final draft EQIP documents have been formulated considering comments from the Area, field and producers. They have been reviewed and edited after the EQIP Subcommittee of the State Technical Committee Meeting. On December 2 they will be presented to the Minnesota State Technical Committee when I will seek their review and concurrence. **Field offices should use these documents for internal use only and not distribute them outside of NRCS.** The Application Scoring Worksheet concerns from 2004 should be used with the LWG to set priorities. The final draft Application Scoring Worksheet only makes minor changes and requires LWGs to consider the Conservation Security Program (CSP) under the local concern.

Final documents will be transmitted through a Conservation Program Manual Amendment on December 3, 2004.

Minnesota will continue to use an Access Database like last year to collect and capture information not recorded or not available in Protracts. It will be transmitted in early December, also.

A Net Meeting has been scheduled for December 9, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a rebroadcast with live questions and answers on the 10th. Employees will need to participate in one of these two sessions. This will be recorded for future playback. Items to discuss will include the 2005 application process, scoring and docket. In addition, EQIP payments, Protracts entries and Protract modifications will be discussed.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachments (4)

DIST: MN.DC
AO. ASTC
AO.ARC
AO.ENG
MN.EQIP

MINNESOTA EQIP 2005 TIMELINE
November 24, 2004

Date	Item
November 1, 2004	Comments due to MN EQIP on Scoring/Docket
November 22, 2004	EQIP Subcommittee Meeting.
December 2, 2004	State Technical Committee Meeting.
December 3, 2004	Local Work Group Process Concluded.
December 8, 2004	Local Work Group Information Due to State Office
December 10, 2004	LWG Scoring, Docket, etc. Posted on the MN Website
December 13, 2004	EQIP Signup Begins
January 28, 2005	First Scoring Period Ends

February 25, 2005	Second Scoring Period Ends
March 25, 2005	Third Scoring Period Ends
April 2005	
May 2005	
June 2005	
July 2005	
August 2005	
September 2005	